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Message Text

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73
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /029 W
---------- 084515
R 072023Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2708
INFO PANCANAL
USSOUTHCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0092

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG, PINT, PN
SUBJ: LT. COL. AYALA NAMED CHIEF OF NATIONAL GUARD POLICE

REF: PANAMA 2933, MAY 22, 1974.

1. THE JANUARY 7 PRESS HAS REPORTED THE APPOINTMENT, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 6, OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL PEDRO CARLOS AYALA AS CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD POLICE CORPS. AYALA'S JOB -- A NEW COMMAND IN THE GN HIERARCHY -- IS REPORTEDLY TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF POLICE WORK THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WHILE THE EXACT DEGREE OF AUTHORITY OVER POLICE UNITS THAT AYALA WILL EXERCISE IS NOT CLEAR -- ESPECIALLY VIS-A-VIS THE ZONE COMMANDERS HIS APPOINTMENT TO A NATIONAL POLICE COMMAND HAS BEEN CITED BY THE PRESS AS EVIDENCE OF A "NEW DYNAMISM" IN THE GN'S ANTI-CRIME EFFORTS.

2. RECENTLY RETURNED FROM COMMAND OF PANAMA'S UN MIDDLE EAST CONTINGENT -- AND THE GN'S NEWEST LIEUTENANT CONOLNEL -- AYALA HAS A REPUTATION AS IMPULSIVE, COLORFUL, POPULAR WITH HIS TROOPS AND COMPLETELY LOYAL TO GENERAL TORRIJOS. (SEE REFTEL FOR BASIC BIOGRAPHIC DATA). ONCE DESCRIBED BY THE GENERAL AS THE "MOST PUNISHED" OF GN OFFICERS -- A REFERENCE TO HIS FREQUENT ESCAPADES -- AYALA PROJECTS A THROUGHLY "MACHO" IMAGE -- HARD-LIVING AND HARD-LOVING. WHILE NOT HIGHLY REGARDED BY HIS GN PEERS FOR HIS SELF-
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DISCIPLINE OR INTELLECT, HE IS RESOURCEFUL AND UNHESITATING

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IN DISCHARGING HIS ORDERS. USMILGP PANAMA CONSIDERS
HIM FRIENDLY AND GENERALLY PRO-US.
GONZALEZ

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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